

And it is established clearly in law that citizens have a right to bear arms. Beyond that, the Constitution is silent. So it leaves it up to us to address issues concerning the reasonable regulation of that right. Should we not have any regulations, or should we have regulations that are reasonable?

Now, I just heard some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talking about the numerous bills that we will be considering this week having to do with stopping regulation in its tracks in all areas, whether or not it be child safety, food, drugs, car safety, whether or not it be air, water, food, drugs. I have heard talk that regulations stop jobs from being created. That is one that I disagree with; but nevertheless, we will be considering it today.

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But there are some regulations governing the affairs of people that are reasonable, and that includes restrictions on who can bear arms and what kind of arms they can bear. To say that we should have no regulations on weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction, to me is unwise. I don't understand why someone who has a gun in their home for protection needs to have a magazine that is capable of rapid fire, a hundred rounds in a couple of minutes or in a minute. I don't understand why someone needs that kind of firepower to protect their home.

I know people love to go hunting. I, myself, will one day have the opportunity to do that. I have never done it before, but I respect those who wait until hunting season begins on their particular prey of choice. They exercise that right and get a lot of joy and satisfaction out of it, and also bring home some food. I can't disagree with that, and we do need to cull our deer population and other populations. We have reasonable regulations on that. But you don't need an AK-47 to go deer hunting.

My 5 minutes went by very quickly, but I think you all understand what I'm saying.

HONORING PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANTHONY MELIO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Pennsylvania State Representative Anthony Melio, who passed away on Thursday afternoon. To his family, friends, and neighbors, he was known simply as "Tony," "Pop Pop," and "Uncle Tony." In the Pennsylvania State capitol, he was known as a hardworking and honorable State representative.

Having served his country in the Naval Reserves and working as one of the first employees in the United

States Steel Fairless Works in Bucks County, Tony's story is the story of my hometown of Levittown, Pennsylvania, a town of dignified and hardworking people.

Tony Melio was a man who built his political career on bringing the community together with his contagious smile and his warm personality. He embodied the spirit of public service during his time in Harrisburg. As the people's representative from Lower Bucks County, Tony carried out his duties with dignity and perseverance. His commitment to his family and his community were the hallmarks of his service.

A man of great faith, Bucks County has lost one of its most well-respected and beloved public servants in Tony Melio. I, like so many, had the privilege of calling Tony a friend and a neighbor, and my thoughts and prayers are with the Melio family in this difficult time.

I thank the United States House of Representatives for stopping to remember this dignified public servant this morning.

DEVELOP AMERICA'S ENERGY RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Obama continues to pursue an energy agenda that is contrary to his all-of-the-above rhetoric. There is no better example than his administration's recently released 5-year offshore leasing plan.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, the plan proposes a mere 15 lease sales over the next 5 years, which is the lowest number since 1980, when CRS began tracking that data. Instead of allowing the development of America's vast offshore oil and gas resources, the plan effectively imposes a moratorium on most development, a moratorium which Congress lifted nearly 4 years ago. The plan blocks drilling on 85 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf. Effectively, States which sought Federal approval will have to wait another 12 years before any production is possible.

Under current law, Congress has a 60-day review period to replace the President's plan. Last week, the House Natural Resources Committee passed H.R. 6082, a plan that will allow more development of our energy resources. Instead of a moratorium of a none-of-the-above energy policy, we should responsibly develop all of our resources for the long-term benefits of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve affordable and reliable energy.

PASS RUSSIA PNTR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss an issue which I hope we will be addressing in the coming days.

There is a great deal of confusion about the possibility of our passing PNTR for Russia. Some are laboring under the impression that this is a reward to Vladimir Putin and Russia; and, in fact, the opposite is the case. We know that Vladimir Putin—in fact, many people say they look at him and what they are reminded of is the KGB. We know that Vladimir Putin, according to many reports, is attempting to reassemble the former Soviet Union. We know that he has grossly violated human rights. We know that they have a massive bureaucracy, crony capitalism, and a very corrupt court system. That's why, Mr. Speaker, it is very important for us to make sure that we pass Russia PNTR.

According to The Wall Street Journal in an editorial last week, they made it clear, Vladimir Putin does not want to us to pass the Magnitsky Act, which is part of PNTR, and they go on to say that he probably would be just as happy if we did not have PNTR. Why? Because based on overwhelming votes that took place in the last 2 weeks in the Russian Parliament, in the Duma, the lower house, and the Federated Council, the upper house, overwhelming votes, Russia is going to become a member of the World Trade Organization. I personally believe that's a good thing. It will take a great step in the direction of forcing Russia to live with a rules-based trading system, to address those issues of crony capitalism, a corrupt court system, and a massive bureaucracy.

But, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I think it is important to note that we've seen action taken here in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Senate Finance Committee, and we have seen a great deal of enthusiasm focused on the Magnitsky Act.

What is the Magnitsky Act? It is legislation that is named for Sergei Magnitsky, who was a whistleblower who focused on basically corruption that existed within the tax reporting system, basically, tax fraud. He reported on that, and he was imprisoned. He died in 2009. Mr. Speaker, what happened, very sadly, according to most reports, is that he was beaten to death.

Well, what does this legislation do? Something, again, Vladimir Putin would be virulently opposed to. It actually penalizes anyone who was involved in those human rights violations against Sergei Magnitsky. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a good thing. And at the same time in passing PNTR, we will say that the 140 million consumers in Russia will have access to goods and services from the United States of America.

Under the measure that has passed both houses of the Russian Parliament, as I said, overwhelming majorities, it will go into effect within the next couple or 3 weeks. What we need to do, Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize that the